Calcoin News

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE

California State Numismatic Association

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Volume 9, Number 3

MAY, 1955

Modern English Coinage

ELIZABETH I — ELIZABETH II

By CLIVE F. FOSS, La Mesa

This article is only a brief outline of modern English coinage. To be really comprehensive, it would take more space than is available. However, for those interested in pursuing the subject further, a bibliography is included (see Appendix I). It also might be mentioned here that this article is intended to discuss primarily the silver and copper issues. To cover the gold coinage at all well, a separate article would be required.

The accession of Elizabeth I in 1558 was marked by a reform in the coinage. All the debased shillings coined under Edward VI (1547-1553) were called in and melted down, and new coins of finer metal were issued. These coins were hammered and issued in 11 denominations (see Appendix II). Later in her reign, the experiment of issuing milled coins was tried, and though these were far superior to the previous issues, the

HENRY VIII
AR groat, 1509-1547, London. Second coinage, mm. arrow; actual size

ELIZABETH I
Sixpence, 1568, mm. crown
Actual size

EDWARD VI
Fine shilling, 1551-1553, third period
Mint mark tun; actual size

experiment was discontinued, since the established workmen of the mint were worried for their jobs, and therefore raised all possible objection to the new machinery.

During Elizabeth's reign, there was a great shortage of small change, and the various shopkeepers issued their own tin and lead tokens. To remedy this, a copper coinage was designed. Patterns of these were made in 1574 and later years, but they never were issued. It was not until 1613 that copper coins were issued regularly. James I authorized Lord Harrington to strike them, and the issue was continued through the reign of his successor, Charles I.

During the reign of Charles I, milled coins again were issued, but, as in the reign of Elizabeth, they met with a great deal of opposition, and were not continued. The coinage of

CHARLES I
Silver penny, 1649
Enlarged 2:1

this reign is noticeable also for the many provisional issues during the English Civil War (1642-1649). At that time, silver coins were made from private plate in denominations as high as one pound, and square, diamond, or octagonal-shaped coins were issued at the King's Mints of Carlisle, Colchester, Newark, Pontefract, and Scarborough when they were being besieged by the Parliamentary forces.

The Parliamentary forces under Cromwell won the war, and then proceeded to issue a very unimpressive and ugly series of coins, which, incidentally, were the only regular English coinage to have the legends on them in English, instead of Latin. Under Oliver Cromwell, no coins were regularly issued, although a beautiful series of milled patterns were struck but never circulated.

In the reign of Charles II, a major change in the coinage was made. In 1662, hammered coins finally were abolished, and, since that date, all

CHARLES II
Halfpenny, 1673; Enlarged 1¼:1

English coins have been milled. During that period, also, copper coins again were issued, after a lapse of 24 years. At the same time, to remedy the shortage of small change, a tremendous amount of copper tokens was issued by various towns and merchants. The issue was illegal, but the government did not try to suppress it. Finally, in 1672, a proclamation forbade their use, and a new issue of copper coins was made. To

GEORGE I
"Dump" halfpenny, 1717
Enlarged 1¼:1

prevent forgery, however, these were discontinued toward the end of the reign, and tin coins with a copper center were issued. In 1694, though, the government reverted to the issue of copper coins, and these continued uninterrupted until the reign of George II, as did the silver coinage, which had become standardized under Charles II.

In the reign of George II, the minting of the minor silver coins (4d., 3d., 2d., 1d.) was discontinued, and since that date, these denominations (except the threepence) have been issued only as "Maundy" money each year.

The accession of George III (1760) found the English coinage in quite a mess. There was a great shortage of silver and the only regular government issue of it between 1760 and 1816 was in 1787 when a great number of shillings and sixpences were issued. In 1798 some shillings were struck but not issued. To remedy this, Spanish coins were imported and countermarked with the King's head for general circulation. This drew the following comment, among many

others: "The Bank of England, to make its dollars pass, impressed the head of a fool on the head of an ass." After this, the Bank of England issued token dollars in 1804, and smaller pieces in 1811-1816; also, paper money was made legal tender in 1811.

The copper coinage of this period was no better off than the silver, since the issue of it had been suspended in 1754 owing to forgery. During this period, there was another great issue of tokens, although the government made four issues of copper—1770-1775, 1797 (the "cartwheel" coins), 1799, and 1806-1807. A major issue of tokens took place in 1787, and again in 1811, after which they finally were suppressed.

The final coinage of George III, in 1816, marks a major change in the English coinage. It was then that England went onto the gold standard, all silver and copper coins becoming subsidiary money without equivalent intrinsic value. At that time, the first gold sovereigns were issued, and so were new silver coins, which have remained relatively unchanged until the present day.

The copper coinage remained without any major break until 1860, when it finally was discontinued. Since that time, all minor English coins have been made of bronze.

From 1816 to 1920, the silver coinage remained stable, but in 1920, it was debased, becoming only 50 per cent silver, because of the high price of silver. Finally, in 1947, silver was abandoned altogether, and the denominations from the crown to the sixpence since have been made of a copper-nickel alloy. The Maundy money, however, has remained unchanged, and still is being made of fine silver.

The last regularly issued gold coins were in 1925, although proof gold coins were issued at the coronation of George VI. The recent coronation of Queen Elizabeth II has been the first one since that of Edward III (1327) when there has been no issue of gold.

Although this article of necessity

GEORGE III
"Cartwheel" twopence, 1797
Actual size

VICTORIA
"Godless" florin, 1849
Actual size

has been brief, and therefore could not cover the subject too well, it nevertheless is hoped that it will serve its purpose in providing an outline of the Modern English Coinage, which can prove to be a very interesting field.

APPENDIX I

The following books are suggested for anyone interested in pursuing the subject further:

BROOKE, G. C.: **English Coins.** London, 1950.

OMAN, SIR CHARLES: **The Coinage of England.** Oxford, 1931.

RUDING, R.: **Annals of the Coinage.** London, 1840.

SEABY, H. A. and P. J.: **Standard Catalogue of the Coins of Great Britain and Ireland.** London, 1954.

SEABY, H. A. and P. J.: **A Catalogue of the Copper Coins and Tokens of the British Isles.** London, 1949.

SEABY, H. A.: **Notes on English Silver Coins** (2 Vols.) London, 1949.

SEABY, P.: **The Story of the English Coinage.** London, 1950.

APPENDIX II

The following denominations of English silver and copper coins have been issued since the time of Elizabeth I. The dates are approximately when they were issued during this period.

SILVER:

20 Shillings (1642-1643)
10 Shillings (1642-1643)
5 Shillings or Crown (all of this period)
Dollar (1804)
4 Shillings (1887-1890)
3 Shillings (1811-1816)
2 Shillings and Sixpence or Halfcrown (All this period)
2 Shillings or Florin (1849-Present)
Eighteenpence (1½ Shillings) (1811-1816)
1 Shilling (All this period)
Sixpence (All this period)
Groat or Fourpence (1558 - 1727, 1836-1855, 1888)
Threepence (1558-1727, 1845-1945)
Twopence or Halfgroat (1558-1727)
Three - halfpence or 1½d. (1561-1582; 1835-1862)
Penny (1558-1727)
Threefarthings (1561-1581)
Halfpenny (1583-1660)
Maundy Sets (1727-Present)

ALUMINUM-BRONZE:

Threepence (1937-Present)

COPPER, TIN or BRONZE:

Twopence (1797)
Penny (1797-Present)
Halfpenny (1672-Present)
Farthing (1613-Present)
Half Farthing (1828-1856)
Third Farthing (1827-1885)
Quarter Farthing (1839-1853)

* * *

Clive F. Foss was born in London, England, August 30, 1939, and came to the United States with his family in 1945. After living several years in Texas, he moved to San Diego, Calif. He attends San Miguel School in National City.

He began collecting coins at an early age, his interest being in the Roman series and coins of England. He has written several articles on the former for the SAN DIEGO NUMISMATIC SOCIETY BULLETIN, and this one on the English series certainly makes him the youngest contributing member of the CSNA.

In addition to membership in the CSNA and the San Diego Numismatic Society, Clive is a regular attendant at meetings of the Classical Collectors group in Los Angeles. He is junior vice-president of the San Diego Numismatic Society.

We predict a bright future for this promising young numismatist.

Photographed coins are from the C. V. Kappen collection.

———CSNA———

DIRECTORY CORRECTIONS

The Peninsula Coin Club's address is c/o San Carlos Recreation Center, **San Carlos**, Calif. Only other "boo-boo" called to our attention was in the Geographical Directory, where "Grove" was left off the name of the town of Lemon Grove.

———CSNA———

CALCOIN CONTRIBUTORS

The editor thanks the following members for clippings and news items sent him: Charles G. Colver, Earl A. Parker, Erich Werling, Roy Hill, John Yribarne, Dudley L. McClure, Gilbert D. Eaton, Leonel C. Panosh, Dr. N. A. Bowers and Joseph S. Grant.

———CSNA———

VALUE OF SHEKEL

The shekel is an ancient Hebrew coin, in gold worth about $10 in present-day American money, and, in silver, worth about 60 cents.

From the Desk of the Secretary-Treasurer

NEW MEMBERS

651 ANDERSEN, James J. ..... 5186 Los Altos Road, San Diego 9, Calif.
654 FOILES, Robert E. ..... 451 Frederick, San Francisco, Calif.
653 GERTH, Walter G. ..... 1022 Thelma Ave., Vallejo, Calif.
660 HARRIS, Raymond K. ..... 1924 Wyoming Ave., Dearborn, Mich.
655 HURBERT, Stanley ..... 116 Lake St., San Francisco, Calif.
656 JONES, Mrs. Alice A. ..... 4280 Kendall, San Diego 9, Calif.
657 JONES, William H. ..... 4280 Kendall, San Diego 9, Calif.
662 MILLER, Robert J. ..... Flying M Ranch, P.O. Box 1291, Los Altos, Calif.
661 MOHLER, Harry A. ..... P. O. Box 43, Sausalito, Calif.
652 PENINSULA COIN CLUB .....
c/o San Carlos Recreation Center, San Carlos, Calif.
658 WOLF, Hans ..... 5784 Hollister Ave., Goleta, Calif.
659 WORTH, William N. ..... 2146 N. Blandena, Portland 11, Ore.

DECEASED

544 ELLSWORTH, B. H. ..... 1352 Pacific, San Luis Obispo, Calif.
408 MOSS, Col. Joseph ..... 1201 Chestnut St., Philadelphia 1, Pa.
185 STEELE, Col. Charles ..... 341 Marlo Dr., Oakland 5, Calif.

ADDRESS CHANGES

117 BAY CITIES COIN CLUB
Leonard Vezirian, Sec., 2483 Glendower Place, Los Angeles 27, Calif.
476 COFFING, Courtney L. ..... Rt. 2, Box 266, Crowley, La.
356 DONALD, Harold F. ..... 19221 Oxnard St., Tarzana, Calif.
288 GOLDSCHEN, Julius Z. ..... 645 S. Cloverdale Ave., Los Angeles 36, Calif.
605 GUARNERA, Vincent ..... 940 Albany Ave., Brooklyn 3, N.Y.
471 GUTTMAN, Mrs. Alice
..... 5410 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 206, Los Angeles 36, Calif.
584 SAN GABRIEL VALLEY COIN CLUB
c/o F. V. Frey, Treasurer, 375 East Mountain "D", Pasadena 6, Calif.
585 SAWYER, Daniel B. ..... 170 Via Esperanza, San Lorenzo, Calif.
51 WRIGHT, Miss Marie E. ..... 3614 Eye St., Sacramento 1, Calif.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

Cash on hand February 1, 1955		$805.12
Receipts: 1955 dues	$106.00	106.00
Total Receipts		911.12
Disbursements: Postage and Supplies	41.23	
Printing and Mimeographing	25.00	
Calcoin News	316.75	
Convention (Oakland)	16.28	399.26
Cash on hand April 15, 1955		$511.86

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Membership February 1, 1955		392
Additions: New Members	12	12
Total		404
Losses: Deceased	3	3
Net Membership April 15, 1955		401

Note: 366 members are fully paid up for the year 1955.

R. G. McArthur, Secretary

Obituaries

FERNANDO J. AVILEZ

Fernando J. Avilez, Merced, died Dec. 5, 1954, from a lingering illness. He first became interested in coins when his mother gave him a Spanish dollar while a boy. Later, while in the Navy, he formed the habit of collecting coins from each country visited. He started collecting coins seriously after joining the Merced Numismatic Society, of which he was a charter member.

Foreign coins were his specialty, though he had a representative collection of coins of the United States. His foreign collection included some 85 crowns and dollars and about 3000 minor coins from 113 different countries. Other hobbies were hunting and rock collecting. Fernando was a former director of the Merced Numismatic Society and served two years as its auctioneer. He was a CSNA member. At the time of his demise he was a captain in the Merced City Fire Department.—Fred E. Tinkham.

* * *

BURTON ELLSWORTH

Burton Ellsworth, San Luis Obispo, died April 3 from a self-inflicted wound. Mr. and Mrs. Ellsworth had returned home from a party that morning, where Burton seemingly had enjoyed himself. Later, something apparently snapped in his brain and he shot himself. The funeral was April 6. He leaves his wife and three small children.

* * *

COL. JOSEPH MOSS

Col. Joseph Moss, 68, Philadelphia, Pa., past president of the ANA, died Feb. 17. A lawyer, Col. Moss was senior partner in the firm of Moss and Moss.

He served in the Army during World Wars I and II.

A member of more than 20 coin clubs, Col. Moss was a member of the board of governors of the ANA, 1946-49; first vice-president, 1949-51; and president, 1951-53. His principal interest as a collector was in coins of the Bible and of the early Christian era.

Col. Moss was a member of the California State Numismatic Association. Frequent messages such as the following letter to the editor of **Calcoin News** show him to have been an appreciative and very thoughtful person:

"I have just received the current issue of **Calcoin News.** I wish to congratulate you and the California State Numismatic Association for the very excellent publication. It is very informative and extremely well-written. More power to you and the Association."

* * *

JUDGE FREDERICK SCHAFFER

Judge Frederick Schaffer, 60, died March 8 after suffering a stroke while collecting a traffic fine. Judge Schaffer, who presided at both police and judicial district courts at Kingsburg, was stricken at noon and was paralyzed until his death, in the Kingsburg Sanitarium.

A native of Nebraska, the judge had lived in the San Joaquin Valley since 1909. He was elected to the police court in 1947 and to the justice court in 1952.

He was a member of the CSNA and of the Hanford Coin Club.

* * *

LT. COL. CHARLES STEELE

Lt. Col. Charles Steele, 65, retired Army officer of 341 Marlow Drive, Oakland, died March 7 in Desert Hospital, Palm Springs, from injuries suffered in a head-on automobile collision on Highway 99 near Garnet, north of Palm Springs, March 5.

Col. Steele's colorful career as a soldier of fortune included service with the Texas Rangers fighting Pancho Villa and with Villa as a machine gunner fighting the Texas Rangers. He was a captain in France during World War I. During World War II he was provost marshal for Northern California and was charged with relocation of all persons of Japanese ancestry.

Following World War II he entered the home construction business in East Oakland, from which he retired in 1950 to devote his time to his hobbies of coin and gun collecting. He

was a member of the East Bay Coin Club, California State Numismatic Association, American Numismatic Association, and a past president of the Pacific Coast Numismatic Association.

He was a native of Cleveland, Ohio. He is survived by his widow, Willie Joe; a son, Charles Jr.; a daughter, Mrs. James Hoover; and eight grandchildren.

Christian Science services were held at Golden Gate Cemetery, San Bruno.

———CSNA———

Judds Visit Coast

Dr. J. Hewitt Judd, Omaha, Nebr., president of the American Numismatic Association, and Mrs. Judd, were in Southern California on a vacation trip earlier this year. As guests of the A. Kosoffs of Encino, they motored to San Diego and at the Hotel del Coronado were joined for a dinner party by two other numismatists and their wives, Mr. and Mrs. L. C. Panosh, San Diego, and Dr. and Mrs. N. A. Bowers, Atherton.

Lew Panosh is first vice-president of the ANA and Nate Bowers is president of the California State Numismatic Association. The latter was in San Diego attending a civil engineers' convention.

The impromptu dinner party turned out to be something more than that when the four men took occasion to hold a three-hour conference on affairs of the national and the regional organizations. Prominent in the discussions were the Professional Numismatists Guild recently formed by the coin dealers and the code of ethics now under consideration by the CSNA. Officials of the ANA are studying closely the increasing emphasis on this general subject of ethics in the numismatic field.

Letters to the Editor

"I just received the March CALCOIN NEWS. It's terrific — You really are doing a splendid job. I hope the CSNA members appreciate your efforts..."—Abe Kosoff.

PNNA Convention

Several California numismatists have made plans to be in Portland, Ore., for the annual Pacific Northwest Numismatic Association convention, May 20-22, according to William N. Worth, general chairman. California collectors also are well represented in the auction consignments.

"Our California neighbors will be most welcome in the 'City of Roses' for the three-day meeting," Worth said.

Costs are as follows: Registration, $2; Saturday banquet, $3.50; Sunday luncheon, $2.

Inquiries concerning the PNNA convention and auction may be sent to Worth at 423 S.W. Washington St., Portland 4, Ore.

———CSNA———

COLVER DISPLAY PUBLICIZED

Charles G. Colver of the San Dimas Canyon Ranger Station received a nice write-up in the Jan. 26 issue of the **Pomona Progress-Bulletin.** Colver's collection had been on display at the San Dimas Branch Library.

His main interest, according to the article, is in the coins of the United States and Great Britain, including Roman Britain. Colver feels that coin collecting is the perfect answer to man's desire to collect and accumulate something. He said there always is excitement in trying to find the missing link to complete a series and a challenge in getting rare coins. He disagrees with those who feel numismatics is a rich man's hobby.

———CSNA———

REPORTS FINDING $50 SLUGS

George C. Biddle, 66, reported finding seven 1851 $50 gold pieces in sand dunes east of the beach about 12 miles south of San Luis Obispo, while taking a weekend stroll in mid-March. He reported his windfall to the sheriff's office, touching off a brief local gold rush. No other coins were found by the amateur beachcombers. Biddle's father prospected for gold in California about the same time the coins were minted.

Norman Shultz, Salt Lake City, who purchased the slugs, must hold them for one year to comply with state law before offering them for sale.

CSNA Names McArthur President

Robert G. McArthur, Oakland, was elected president of the California State Numismatic Association during the 16th semi-annual convention at Oakland, April 28-May 1. Harry S. Davidson, Los Angeles, was elected vice-president; Thomas W. Ward, Fallbrook, secretary-treasurer; and Stewart J. Bingham, Arcadia, librarian-historian-curator.

Members of the board of directors for the coming year are Dr. Nathan A. Bowers, Atherton, outgoing president; Dr. Calvert L. Emmons, Ontario; Charles V. Kappen, San Jose; Ralph A. Mitchell, Palo Alto; and Leonel C. Panosh, San Diego.

Officers and directors were installed by Burton H. Saxton, Cedar Rapids, Ia., advertising manager of **The Numismatist,** in an impressive ceremony.

NUMISMATIC FORUM

Tom Barrett, assistant cashier of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco and Thomas W. Ward, Fallbrook, were speakers at the Friday Forum, held in the Emerald Room. Barrett's topic was "Coin, Currency and Counterfeiting". Ward spoke on "Coinage of Ancient Rome". The speakers were introduced by A. W. (Walt) Ritchie, Berkeley.

CLUB OFFICERS' BREAKFAST

At the breakfast meeting of all coin club officials Saturday morning, discussion centered on ways and means of making coin club meetings more successful; that is, more attractive and more interesting.

Keynote of the session was the opening statement by Gil Eaton, chairman, who suggested the following topics: (1) How to get new members; (2) How to keep monthly meetings attractive; (3) How a small club can make expenses; (4) Inexpensive meeting announcements; (5) A standing committee alert for "best meeting place"; (6) A "trading session" for clubs too small to hold auctions; (7) Making intermissions effective; (8) Having prepared "reports on numismatic literature"; (9) Successful plans for handling refreshments; (10) Having a club official order proof sets for members.

Among procedures described and recommended were greeting and a full introduction for "first-timers"; provision for adequate intermission; endeavor to obtain every-member participation; and the training of new members for official duties.

The 25 persons present represented 11 organizations.

GARDEN SHOW TOUR

Stanley S. Hawley conducted a group of 19 delegates on a tour of the Garden Show Saturday morning.

SATURDAY BANQUET

General Chairman Gilbert D. Eaton introduced those besides himself at the head table, and members of his convention committees.

Dr. N. A. Bowers, president, welcomed those in attendance and thanked Eaton, president of the host club and his committees.

Frank X. Galvin, master of ceremonies, introduced three performers, who entertained at the banquet. Duke Art made human faces with clay; Bob Haskell performed several magic acts and Roger Westley conducted a puppet show.

BUSINESS MEETINGS

At Friday's business meeting San Jose was awarded the Spring, 1956, CSNA convention. Tentative dates are April 19-22. The Fall, 1956, convention was awarded Santa Barbara.

Reports were made by C. V. Kappen on **Calcoin News** and by N. A. Bowers on a proposed code of ethics.

The resolutions committee, composed of Charles V. Kappen, chairman, Roy Hill and Charles N. Peters, reported.

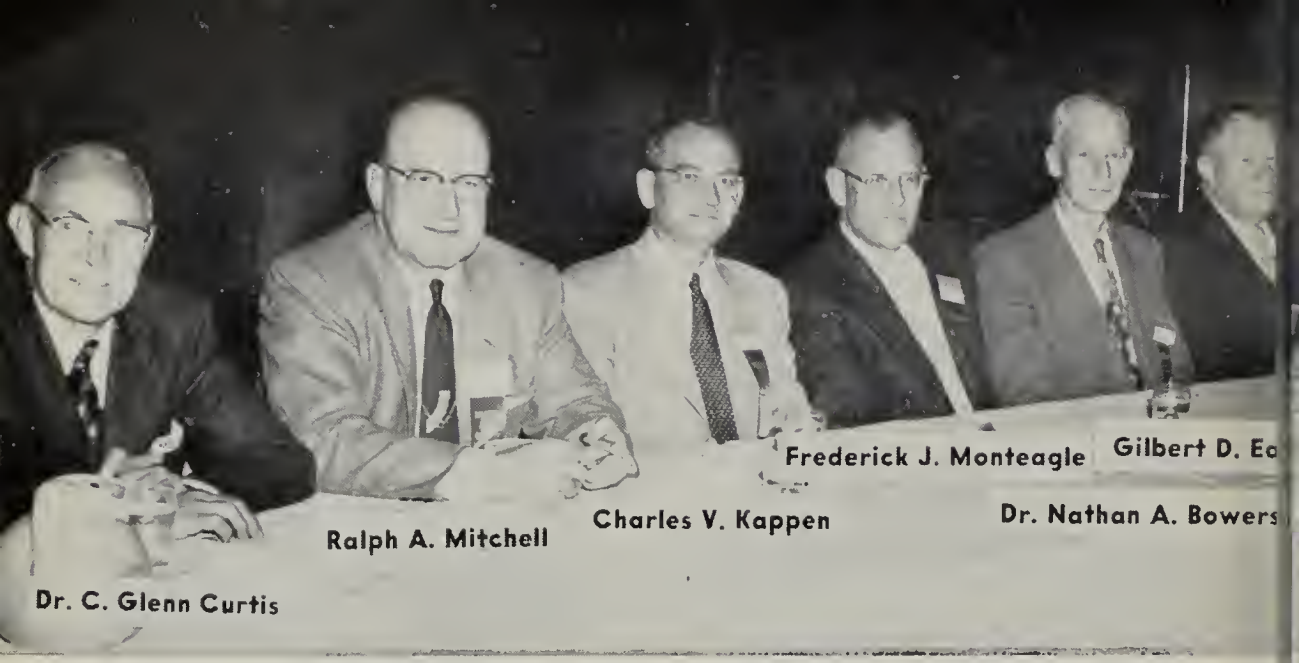
SUNDAY LUNCHEON

Earl A. Parker, San Francisco, was master of ceremonies at the Sunday luncheon, presided over by Gil D. Eaton.

R. G. McArthur introduced W. H. Spence, newly-appointed assistant editor of **Calcoin News.**

CLUB SECRETARIES

Henceforth, Southern club secretaries should send their writeups to Spence. Northern secretaries will continue to send their material to William H. Connell. The Tehachapi Mts. will serve as a "Mason-Dixon" line between North and South.



BOURSE DEALERS

Dealers who cooperated with the CSNA by taking bourse space were Del Bassetti, San Luis Obispo; Karl Brainard, Los Angeles; Al Crites, West Sacramento; Bob Flinn, Albuquerque, N. M.; Ed Fogler, Oakland; Ed Gans, Berkeley; W. E. Johnson, Santa Barbara; Charles V. Jones, Los Angeles; Irving Knickerbocker, San Diego; Kenneth W. Lee, Glendale; Barney O'Hea, San Francisco; Earl A. Parker, San Francisco; Charles N. Peters, Alameda; Dan Redmond, Emeryville; D. L. Rhodes, Vallejo; F. K. Saab, St. Louis, Mo.; William Sexton, Santa Maria; John Skubis, San Francisco; Al Smith, Oakland; William H. Smith, San Francisco; Benjamin Stack, Las Vegas, Nev.; and Leo A. Young, Lockeford.

OUT-OF-STATERS

Out-of-staters attending the convention included Mr. and Mrs. F. K. Saab, St. Louis, Mo.; R. F. Schermerhorn, Dallas, Tex.; William N. Worth, Portland, Ore.; Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Allee, Phoenix, Ariz.; Burton H. Saxton, Cedar Rapids, Ia.; Bob Flinn, Albuquerque, N. M.; Benjamin Stack, Las Vegas, Nev.; Lloyd Ruff, Portland, Ore.

Descriptions of the 33 Convention Exhibits

By THOMAS W. WARD, *Fallbrook*

BLOOM, Clifford H., San Francisco: Gold coins of many nations.

BOYCE, Tom, San Jose: Coins and currency of our neighbors, Canada and Mexico (First Award, Junior).

BROWN, Kirby, Berkeley: Chinese odd-shaped coins (First Award, Junior).

CASE, Thelma, Santa Monica: Coins and currency of 1917; coronation coins of Queen Elizabeth II (Third Award, Specialized Collections).

CUTLER, Mrs. Harry, San Francisco: Kellogg & Co. $50 die; gold scale, jewelry and other relics of Gold Rush Days (Noncompetitive).

EMMONS, Dr. Calvert L., Ontario: Complete set U.S. gold dollars (Second Award, U.S. Coins).

FROST, R. J., Berkeley: U.S. trade dollars.

GALVIN, Frank X., Oakland: Baby pictures with numismatic cutlines (Noncompetitive—Special Award).

GANS, Edward, Berkeley: Greek and Roman gold and silver; Roman sestertii (large bronzes); Jewish coins; medals (Noncompetitive).

GERTH, Walter G., Vallejo: Odd and curious money of the world, including Chinese, Siamese "bullets," porcelain tokens, etc. (First Award, Odd and Curious).

GJUROVICH, Rudy, San Jose: Smallest gold coins of many countries; large U.S. paper money; broken bank notes; Continental currency; Japanese paper money.

HAWLEY, Stanley S., Oakland: Athenian silver, with chart showing relative purchasing values (First Award, Ancient).

HILL, Roy, San Francisco: Coins and currency of Finland; numismatic books.

HUDSON, Gerald L., Lakeport: Lincoln cents, with autographed photo of Lincoln (Third Award, U.S. Coins).

JOHNSON, Arthur, Berkeley: U.S. small cents (Third Award, Junior).

KAPPEN, Charles V., San Jose: Modern coins of many nations, showing examples of varied sizes, shapes and composition; currency of silk, leather, linen, velvet, wood and other materials (Second Award, Modern Coinages).

LISS, Clifford L., San Francisco: U.S. dollars.

LODGE, Lesley, San Francisco: American eagle on coins (First Award, U.S. Coins).

LORET, Kurt E., San Francisco: Planets, Gods, and Greek and Roman coins (Second Award, Ancient).

MOHLER, Harry, San Francisco: Medals, decorations and orders of Portugal (Second Award, Medals and Decorations).

OHLS, John E., San Francisco: Commemorative coins of Great Britain and the Commonwealth (Second Award, Specialized Collections).

OLSWANG, Dennis E., San Francisco: Coins of Korea.

PATTERSON, Mabel D., Daly City: Military medals, orders and decorations (First Award, Medals and Decorations).

PAYNE, Bruce, Oakland: British portrait coins, Victoria-Elizabeth II (Third Award, junior).

PERRY, Gerald C., Vallejo: Minor Coins of Elizabeth I (First Award, Medieval).

SAAB, F. K., St. Louis, Mo.: Quintuple stella; 1879 gold proof set; pioneer gold including $50 Wass Molitor, Assay Office and others; U.S. patterns; gold sets of Austria, Brazil, Montenegro, Japan, India, Roumania, Czechoslovakia, Egypt and other countries; British 5-guinea pieces; unique 1708 Brunswick 60-ducat; 1869 Chinese 50-tael, one of two known (Noncompetitive).

SALISBURY, William, Berkeley: U.S. minor coins (Second Award, Junior).

SNEDAKER, Paul D., San Francisco: Half dollar-size coins of many nations, each accompanied by its nation's flag (First Award, Modern Coinages).

STRAUCH, Milton C., Daly City: Coins of Portugal and Portuguese colonies (First Award, Specialized Collections).

THRALL, Don T., Berkeley: Fractional currency, together with the postage stamps used for illustrations thereon; encased stamps; coins of Germany and the German States (Second Award, Paper Money; Third Award, Modern Coinages).

WARD, Thomas W., Fallbrook: Early Roman Imperial denarii (Second Award, Specialized Collections).

WERLING, Erich, Oakland: Coins of Spain and possessions, especially Brabant and Flanders (Third Award, Specialized Collections).

WORTH, William N., Portland, Ore.: Gold coins of Great Britain, Peru, Switzerland, Russia and Mexico.

* * * *

The Awards Committee was composed of **Leonel C. Panosh**, chairman, **Dr. C. Glenn Curtis** and **Herbert M. Bergen.**

California Club News, Views, and Whos

East Bay Coin Club

Meets 2nd Friday, 8 P.M., at Hotel Claremont, Oakland

Sixty-eight members and guests attended the April 8 meeting.

Fred Monteagle introduced the speakers of the evening, F. G. Stradcutter, assistant cashier, and Roland Hill, head of the Safe Deposit Department of the Bank of California. Stradcutter spoke on the history of the Bank of California, and its close association with the early history of this State, in particular the gold rush, and the rich silver mines of Virginia City, Nev. Hill spoke on the minting of the early private gold coins in California.

Requests have been received from Parks Air Force Base Hospital for coin material which can be used to advantage by patients interested in the hobby. A request also has been made for members to speak to the patients on our hobby.

Exhibits: Leo A. Young, Japanese 1838 Tempo gold oban, two pieces carved jade and set of five coins, the pillar dollar and its fractions, in plastic; Earl A. Parker, Norris, Grieg & Norris 1849 $5 gold; C. H. Bloom, English Commonwealth 10S gold, 1649; Frank X. Galvin, 1859S dollar, last year struck; Charles V. Kappen, complete type set of Irish gunmoney; Roy Hill, Maundy money and Lady Godiva tokens.

Earl A. Parker disposed of 35 lots at auction, after which refreshments were served.

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R. S. Yeoman, author of **A Guide Book of United States Coins,** was speaker at the March 11 meeting, which was attended by 46 members and 22 guests. Yeoman explained briefly the methods used in publishing coin books and coin cards by the Whitman Publishing Co. He also explained that prices are taken from figures furnished by contributors and dealers. Minor varieties are left out to keep the book size down. The method of making up the book was described. Yeoman said a foreign catalog is in the making. The speaker was introduced by Frank X. Galvin.

A letter was written a short time ago to the Secretary of the Treasury, protesting cessation of minting operations at the San Francisco Mint. This letter was read by President Gilbert D. Eaton, together with the reply from the Acting Director of the Mint.

A note from Mrs. Ken Allen was read, thanking the Club for flowers sent her during her recent illness.

A moment of silence was observed for Col. Charles Steele, who was killed recently in an automobile accident.

Exhibits were made by Roy Hill, Charles N. Peters, Leo A. Young, Charles R. Bigelow, D. L. Rhodes, John A. Schreuder, Stanley S. Hawley, B. M. O'Hea, Claude H. Church III and E. A. Parker. Parker auctioned 50 lots.

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Gilbert D. Eaton, president, welcomed 88 members and guests to the Feb. 11 meeting.

Ken Allen, vice-president and program chairman, introduced Leo Young, CSNA auctioneer of Lockeford, who spoke on "Odd and Curious Money". He first explained what constitutes "odd and curious" money. Much so-called "odd money" actually has been used as a medium of exchange, but there is some about which there is doubt that it actually circulated or was accepted as money. Money was first used to purchase a wife, Young said. The use of a dowry is a holdover from this custom. In so-called primitive areas the medium of exchange—money—is sometimes prized by all, not too easily come by. Young displayed tea bricks, beaver pelt, Swedish plate money, Yap Island stone, Oriental tree money, and several pieces of African tribal money. Following this, he briefly explained the workings of a large mail and floor bid auction.

Frederick Monteagle discussed publicity for the state convention. Efforts are being made to obtain TV time. Articles are appearing in the Oakland Sunday Tribune, tear sheets being sent to all Northern California coin clubs and to some Southern clubs.

A questionnaire prepared by the

board of governors was explained, its purpose being to improve programs and services of the club.

Exhibits, many of them Lincoln and Washington items, were made by Leo A. Young, John E. Ohls, Rolland Meyers, Victor Madden, Clifford Bloom, Ken Allen, Don Thrall, Earl Parker, Alan Craig, D. L. Rhodes, Walter Gerth, Edward Fogler, Roy Hill, Al Smith, George F. Hodges and B. M. O'Hea. Young exhibited the first year of issue of all U. S. coins, ½-cent through $50 gold. Parker displayed an 1852 gold slug and three facsimiles. Craig showed a money sarong of the South Sea Islands.

—**Don T. Thrall,**
Recording Secretary

Garfield Numismatists

Meets 2nd Tuesday, 7:30 P.M., at Berkeley School Administration Bldg., 1414 Walnut St., Berkeley

At the Jan. 10 meeting, members enjoyed a showing of a sound movie on the Mint, obtained from the University of California by Mrs. Barbara Johnson, mother of the secretary. The film showed many steps in the making of coins similar to those which were seen in the San Francisco Mint when it was visited in November, but in it also were some shots of how the dies are made and the working dies made from the master.

After the film, closing of coining operations at the San Francisco Mint was discussed. Modern mass production of the Denver Mint in the handling of ingots and making them into strips ready for planchet punching has made this change inevitable, since the San Francisco Mint building, new as it is, is not laid out to accommodate machinery needed to match that at Denver.

Counselor Roy Hill pointed out that this mint will have a role similar to that once held by the Denver Mint, but in reverse. Though designated a mint since 1862 when it was authorized, the Denver Mint did not make coins until 1906.

Counselor Hill displayed coins and tokens of Hawaii with various labels and extra trimmings such as pictures and emblems peculiar to Hawaii, to show how exhibits can be dressed up to be made more attractive, especially to the new collector and non-collector.

—**Arthur Johnson,**
Secretary

Long Beach Coin Club

Meets 1st Tuesday, 8 P. M., at Linden Hall, 208 Linden Ave., Long Beach

The 58th meeting was held April 5.

The following guests and new members were introduced: A. P. Gasser, Los Angeles dealer; W. E. Frazier, Chief Merle Piper and son David, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Fredericks and son Donald, Lowell Jones, Mr. Plowright, S. N. Farndell, and John R. Sandefer.

President Charles Johnson displayed and explained several numismatic magazines.

Exhibits were displayed by the following: Ben Williams, choice gold type set consisting of 11 pieces, $1 to $20, showing Liberty, St. Gaudens, and Indian head types; Abel Sampson, uncirculated mint sets, 1936 to date.

Maurice Jensen is in charge of the Hobby Show display April 23 - 26 in the Municipal Auditorium. Members who will be hosts during the show and who will furnish displays are: Harold McCabe, Abel Sampson, Jack Gaines, Charles Johnson, Lawrence Nichelson, Joseph Tays, Sol Alexander, John Haldiman, Ben Williams and Earl Morrison.

An invitation was extended by Mr. and Mrs. Howard Stauffer to attend the San Fernando Valley Club June meeting at which time only proofs and uncirculated coins will be displayed and auctioned.

Adolph Larson, Los Angeles, explained his love for "Early Americana". He said that early immigrants used the coins of their own countries for purchases (Sweden, France, Italy, Germany, Great Britain, etc.)—such was the early colonial currency. He also displayed a beautiful collection of Washington pieces dated 1783.

Larson defined a numismatologist as one who studies coins. This includes the science of metallurgy, the chemistry of alloys, the planning and creating of design, and minting operations of the coins.

The usual coffee hour was enjoyed, followed by the auction with Larson as guest auctioneer.

—**Mrs. Norma Boldman Pyle,**
Publicity Chairman

Los Angeles Coin Club

Meets 1st Friday, 8 P.M., at
Foresters' Hall, Los Angeles

An all-time record number of 126 members and guests attended the 323rd regular meeting Feb. 4.

By action of the board of governors, membership applications received at any meeting will be voted upon at the following meeting. Applications for 12 new memberships were received and will be voted on in March.

Oliver S. Garretson, a member of the board of governors, provided the program material, which consisted of color slides of Rome and other Italian cities. Garretson had taken the photographs while on a trip last year to Southern Europe and the Middle East.

Exhibits: W. J. Farwell, U. S. gold from the Farouk collection; D. J. B. Paine, letter signed by Edwin M. Stanton (Lincoln's Secretary of War) and a specimen of 50 cent fractional currency; Murray G. Singer, U. S. proof sets (1938-1954) all mounted in a large plastic outline map of the United States; Ernest R. Stern, gold medal of Pope Leo XII; Earl G. Whitehead, types of major Mexican silver coins from pillar dollar to current issues.

* * *

The 332nd regular meeting was held Jan. 7. Retiring President W. R. Fanning presided over an attendance of 119 members and guests.

The following were accepted for membership: Beatrice H. Fallon, Cliff T. Fallon, Elizabeth Paine, Dr. Roy J. Popkin, Ernest R. Stern and Jim Wilson.

The program featured ANA Slide Set No. 2, "Types of U. S. Commemorative Half Dollars," shown by the secretary, commentary presented by President-elect William H. Spence.

Exhibits: Abel Sampson, type set of U. S. commemorative halves; W. J. Farwell, complete set of U. S. commemorative gold, type set of Mexican gold, and Canadian $5 gold coins; Joseph Grant, Hawaiian coins, regular issues, proofs and patterns; Mr. and Mrs. William H. Spence, type set of U. S. commemorative halves.

The 27th Anniversary banquet and installation of officers was held at Scully's Restaurant Jan. 15. This year the Los Angeles Coin Club played host to the San Fernando Valley Coin Club, and the two clubs conducted a joint installation of their 1955 officers. Printed banquet programs and souvenir folders, each containing an uncirculated coin, featured the recently-adopted Los Angeles Coin Club emblem, designed by the new secretary. (Editor's Note: How about an electro of it for use in **Calcoin News?**) Musical entertainment was provided, door prizes donated by many dealers were presented and a fine dinner was enjoyed by the 109 persons in attendance.

A gavel with engraved silver band was presented to W. R. Fanning, retiring president. Merit awards were presented to George Bennett, William E. Happel, William H. Spence and Earl G. Whitehead for service to the club during 1954.

—**Mrs. Esther G. Spence,**
Secretary

Orange Co. Coin Club

Meets 4th Wednesday,
8 P.M., at Woman's
Clubhouse, Brea

The 200th regular monthly meeting Feb. 23 was attended by 117 members and guests.

President Winn Osborne announced that henceforth at every meeting one member will be appointed by the president to be the "Collector of the Month." He will display from his collection and give a short talk about it.

Applications for membership were received from seven guests who were promptly admitted to the club.

Program chairman Lowell Wood introduced Adolph Larson Jr., speaker for the evening. Speaking on the subject "Coins of Washington", Larson first gave a short review of George Washington's life. Then followed a description of the various coins struck prior to the opening of the United States Mint which commemorate him as leader of the Revolution. These coins, Larson said, should be a part of every collection of United States coins. The speaker displayed numerous Washington pieces and also showed a copy of the Ulster Gazette published in New York

in January, 1800, which contains a report of Washington's farewell address and an aceount of his death.

—**Harry Davidson,**
Acting Seeretary

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The 16th Annual Banquet and the 199th regular monthly meeting of the Orange County Coin Club was held Jan. 26 at Brea, with 105 members and guests in attendance.

The banquet ehairman weleomed the guests to the tune of reverberations from the speech of Dr. Jose Fernando Triago delivered at the Riverside Convention of the CSNA. After the dinner, served as usual by the waiters eorps of the elub, Harry Hanson, master of eeremonies, first introduced the Melodiers, who gave the crowd a wonderful musieal treat with numerous encores included. Then he presented Ralph Chase, Whittier, who gave his recollections of the exeiting presidential eampaign of 1896 in whieh the great monetary issue of that time, free silver vs. the gold standard, was brought to a elimax. The speaker described the Democratie convention at which William Jennings Bryan, a politieal unknown, was nominated by wild aeelamation after his famous "Cross of Gold" speech. In his talk, Chase also referred to the many political tokens, later called Bryan money, which were issued at that time and which now constitute one of the interesting odd and eurious money eolleetion items.

The speaker was presented a rare Bryan 16 to 1 dollar of 1896 by the club as a mark of appreciation. This rare token was graciously given by Dr. C. Glenn Curtis, in return for whieh he was presented with a medal whieh portrays another distinguished Demoerat in Ameriean polities, Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Final number of the meeting was installation of offieers for 1955 by J. Howard Robinson, who pleased everyone with another of his novel installation eeremonies that should long be remembered by those participating. The following officers were installed: President, Winn Osborne; viee-president, Lowell Wood; secretary, Herbert Bergen; treasurer, Joseph Courreges; librarian, Dr. C. Glenn Curtis; and directors, Harry Davidson, Dr. C. L. Emmons, John Stoppelwerth, Charles Colver, and Charles Boothe.

—**Herb Bergen,**
Seeretary

PCNS

Meets last Wednesday, 8 P.M., at Palace Hotel, San Francisco

The 468th meeting, Feb. 23, was attended by 41 members and 25 visitors.

Gilbert D. Eaton, East Bay Coin Club president, spoke on the semiannual California State Numismatic Assoeiation eonvention at Oakland. He introduced his eommittee chairmen, who outlined the eonvention program. Editor Charles V. Kappen, CSNA direetor, explained advantages of belonging to the state organization and deseribed the work involved in publishing **Calcoin News.**

The evening program, eonsisting of California material, ranged from pioneer law enforcement badges to pioneer gold coins. The following 21 persons had displays: Clifford H. Bloom, H. F. Bowker, Julius Fulton, Walter E. Gerth, Roy Hill, A. G. K. Jakobsen, Charles V. Kappen, C. L. Liss, Les Lodge, Kurt Loret, Bernard M. O'Hea, John E. Ohls, Earl Parker, F. C. Powell, David Redfield, Don Rhodes, A. W. Ritchie, Alvin R. Smith, Paul Snedaker, Anatol Soholdosky and Leo Young.

Another manuseript on numismaties was given Chairman Earl Parker for our annual eompetition.

A lively auetion was conduеted by Earl Parker.

—**Mrs. Eula C. Jakobsen,**
Seeretary

Peninsula Coin Club

Meets 1st Wednesday in San Carlos Recreation Center, San Carlos

The 12th meeting of the Peninsula Coin Club was attended by 14 members and three guests. Three new memberships were reeeived.

Acting President Bill Attinger presided and new officers were elected as follows: Ralph Zimmerman, president; Madeline Bergman, vice-president; and Marie Currie, seeretary.

National Coin Week was diseussed and plans were made for displaying eoins. Madeline Bergman, chairman, reported fine eooperation from mer-

ehants in Redwood City and San Carlos for display windows.

Exhibits: Madeline Bergman, eomplete set buffalo niekels, ineluding the three-legged variety; Roy Hill, eoins of primitive peoples; Stanley Blois, dollar bills in Series A through Z; Billy Shultz, types of bills and Freneh eoins; Anna Marie Currie, jewelry made from Australian eoins.

Guest speaker E. H. Wilson, Palo Alto, displayed and diseussed aneient European eoins. He also eondueted an interesting game of grading six eent pieees by eaeh member.

John Hubbard, hobby reporter of the **Burlingame Star,** was a very interested guest at his first visit to a eoin elub.

Refreshments were served, and all members were reminded to attend the birthday meeting April 6.

—**Anna Marie Currie,**
Seeretary

Petaluma Coin Collectors

Meet 2nd Monday at new City Hall, Petaluma

Petaluma Coin Colleetors held their Feb. 14 meeting in their new quarters, the new City Hall. President Steve Nowieki presided.

Guest speaker for the evening was John Ohls, San Franeiseo, whose topie was "Why Colleet U. S. Commemorative Coins?" Ohls showed his eolleetion of U. S. eommemoratives.

Among guests present from Oakland were Gilbert D. Eaton, president of the East Bay Coin Club; Robert G. McArthur, seeretary-treasurer of the California State Numismatie Assoeiation; and F. J. Monteagle, assistant e:ty editor of the **Oakland Tribune.** Also from Oakland were 10 members of the East Bay Coin Club. Eaton spoke on behalf of the state eonvention to be held at the Hotel Claremont April 28 - May 1. Guests from San Franeiseo were Earl Parker and Roy Hill. Daly City was represented by Robert C. Patterson, a member of the board of governors of the Paeifie Coast Numismatie Soeiety. Guests from Santa Rosa were Guy C. Chapman, president of the Redwood Empire Coin Club; Cliffton Cole, seeretary-treasurer; Alexander Gahwiler, publieity ehairman, and Henry Wrede, historian.

Each guest displayed a coin eollection and gave a brief talk on it. Refreshments were served.

—**Dorothy Lumsden,**
Seeretary-Treasurer

San Diego Numismatic Society

Meets 1st Monday, 8 P.M., at YMCA Auditorium, 1115 8th Ave., San Diego

The 214th monthly meeting was held Mareh 11 at the YMCA, President James J. Andersen, presiding.

Displays of the evening were: Franeis Jones, U. S. type set; Frank Hernandez, thalers and double thalers; Albert Conyne, U. S. gold; and Arthur Vigneault, U. S. silver dollars.

The program of the evening was a tape reeording of the main speaker at the eonvention held in Riverside last Oetober.

After the program, a coin auetion was held and refreshments served.

—**Lyle L. Gordon,**
Secretary

San Jose Coin Club

Meets 1st Monday, 8 P.M., at Hotel DeAnza, San Jose

The 102nd meeting April 4 was attended by 34 members and guests.

President Austen Warburton eommended William Craig for the exeellent review given his book, **Germanie Coinages,** by **Seaby's Bulletin.**

Exhibits and eomments were given by the following: George Kohl, mounted plaque of foreign eoins; Roy Hill, George VI Maundy set, 1797 eartwheel and Lady Godiva tokens; Beverly Smith, 1914 Belgian bronze medal; Charles Kappen, Mexiean paper money; and Rudy Gjurovieh, Mexiean 50-peso gold pieee.

George Kohl introduced speaker, Elliott H. Wilson, Palo Alto, whose topie was "Coins of the Mexiean Revolution, 1913-1917". Wilson stressed the turbulent history of Mexieo from 1910-1920, from the days of President Porfirio Diaz and Gen. Madero to Paneho Villa, Gen. Huerta, Zapata, Carranza, and Obregon. The various insurgent governments, except Gen.

Madero's, were well represented in eoins from Wilson's extensive and rare eollection. He explained that no eoins or bills were issued for Gen. Madero.

Charles V. Kappen condueted the auction.

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The 101st meeting Mareh 7 was attended by 37 members and guests. President Austen Warburton regretfully aecepted the resignation of Vincent Guarnera, treasurer, who is moving to New York. George Matson was eleeted to fill the vaeaney.

Exhibits: Earl Parker, California commemoratives, $50 gold slugs, genuine and faesimile; Syl Tully Jr., antique Turkish coins; Rudy Gjurovich, Irish eommemoratives; Robert Patterson, U. S. type sets; Mrs. Harris, $20 bank notes and U. S. silver dollars; Ralph Mitehell, U. S. Colonial and Revolutionary money; Roy Hill, miseellaneous numismatic pictures and pamphlets and U. S. depression money; Librarian George Kohl, new books on numismatics and California.

James Mussatti, general manager of the California State Chamber of Commeree, talked on "California Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow". He was introduced by Roy Hill.

Mussatti stated that Texas is the state's greatest competitor for industry, and that of the three fast growing west eoast states, California is making the highest numerieal gain with an inerease of 8000 people every week. Also, that one of the greatest problems for some time to come will be adequate streets and highways. Interest eontinues high for rural and metropolitan industrial sites. California now enjoys a five-fold increase of annual income to $25,000,000,000, and it has seven of the top 10 produeing agrieultural eounties of the nation. Mussatti also said that the history of eivilization is written around bodies of water and traced its progress from aneient times to the present, stating that the Pacific Ocean is now the newest theater, with California playing a stellar role in its development. Too, he stressed the need for impounding more water in California as now only 15% is saved, and that will not be enough to support a greater population and agrieulture. All in all, Mussatti foreeast a tremendous growth potential for California whieh is now only starting to be realized.

After a short intermission, Ralph Mitchell eondueted a very lively aue-tion.

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Following a 6:30 dinner celebrating the 100th meeting of the San Jose Coin Club Feb. 7, President Austen Warburton called to order a short business meeting of 37 members and guests at the Town House Restaurant.

Vice president Roy Hill introdueed the first guest speaker of the evening, Leslie Lenz, offieer of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Franciseo and head of its Seeret Service Department. Lenz spoke on "Counterfeit Currency", explaining the differenees in the functions of the F.B.I. and the Secret Service; the difference between counterfeiters of the depression days and today; eounterfeiters' methods of making facsimiles of bills and of passing fakes, as well as methods used by the law to trail baek counterfeit bills to their souree.

Lenz next introduced his eolleague, Kenneth Peterson, another officer of the Federal Reserve Bank, who is head of the Cash Department and organizer of its detection staff. Peterson spoke on the bank's endeavor to maintain a stable eeonomy by cheeking margin eontrols and preserving the intrinsie value of our money. He explained the three different types of U. S. Curreney extant and methods used by trained sorters for verifieation of any of its eounterfeits.

Together Lenz and Peterson distributed deteetion bulletins to those present and gave a fine exhibit of counterfeit bills and a demonstration of light deteetion of fakes.

— **Beverly Gayle Smith,**
Secretary

———CSNA———

SAN BERDOO MEMBERSHIPS

For the second consecutive year, the San Bernardino County Coin Club has issued membership eards, with all rights, to officers and direetors of the California State Numismatie Association and the Ameriean Numismatie Assoeiation.

———CSNA———

CONVENTION FIGURES

Registration at the Oakland-Berkeley convention totaled 156. One hundred sixty persons attended the banquet, 94 the luneheon, and 25 the club offieers' breakfast. Thirty-three exhibitors used 60 eases for displays. Final tabulations will appear in the July issue.

S.F. Mint Stops Making Coins

The U. S. Mint in San Francisco ceased coining operations March 24. The 1-cent piece, 44,610,000 of which had been turned out in 1955, was the last coin to be struck. The Mint had stopped making 10-cent pieces, only other denomination struck this year, a week before. The dropping of the cent from a coin press at the Mint was an historic event. It brought to a close an operation which had begun April 3, 1854, nearly 101 years ago.

The San Francisco city administration, merchants and others had protested its closing, but to no avail. Following is an exchange of letters between the East Bay Coin Club, Oakland, and the Acting Director of the Mint:

East Bay Coin Club Asks Reconsideration

Jan. 25, 1955

Hon. Geo. M. Humphrey
Secretary of the Treasury,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

The membership of the East Bay Coin Club, Oakland, Calif., second largest such organization in California, went on record by unanimous vote at its Jan. 14 meeting as vigorously opposed to abandonment of coining operations at the century-old U.S. Mint in San Francisco. It is earnestly hoped that this contemplated action is not beyond reconsideration.

For the following reasons and others too numerous to set forth here, the East Bay Coin Club opposes the cessation of coinage at the mint in San Francisco :

1. The estimated savings—said to approximate $400,000 annually according to published reports—seem hardly worthy of attainment in terms of the resultant hardship and unemployment affecting long-time government employees, unless parallel cuts are made in multi-million and billion dollar expenditures now undertaken almost daily by the government. How long would $400,000 service the national debt?
2. **With the country's population increasing rapidly year-by-year, it is only a question of time before the coinage facilities at the U.S. Mint in San Francisco will be in requisition again. Where will a trained force be available then if the present crew is scattered to all parts of the country? That the machinery reportedly is going to be "moth-balled" at the mint clearly shows, in our opinion, that this is only a temporary expedient being taken at the expense of the mint employees and the San Francisco Bay area, possibly for some transitory budget reasons.**
3. The action is looked upon with disfavor by all California coin collectors and coin clubs and we believe it is not an exaggeration to state that members of the numismatic fraternity throughout the nation share our views. We, in the West, feel that the mint director's action is an affront to the West. We revere our historical institutions just as greatly as, say, Denver or Philadelphia.
4. In view of the recent construction of the Mint building in San Francisco (1937) we feel that abandonment of coining operations so soon afterward, on the grounds that they are uneconomical here, is an admission of poor governmental planning, and that a more vigorous effort to justify coinage should be made rather than the defeatist attitude adopted.
5. Lastly, we believe that a solution might lie in (a) spreading the work load more evenly among the three existing mints so that all may continue to function and (b) the resumption of gold coinage which, we realize, is a serious, basic step which would require an appropriate congressional act.

Very truly yours,
(Signed) **Gilbert D. Eaton, President**
East Bay Coin Club

Acting Mint Director Explains Decision

TREASURY DEPARTMENT
Washington, 25, D.C.
Office of Director of the Mint

Feb. 16, 1955

Mr. G. D. Eaton
President, East Bay Coin Club
P.O. Box 633, Bayshore Station
Oakland 23, California

Dear Mr. Eaton:

I have before me for reply your letter of Jan. 25 addressed to the Secretary of the Treasury, concerning the discontinuance of coinage at the San Francisco Mint. I will attempt, insofar as possible, to answer your questions in the order enumerated in your letter.

Under Item 1 you list the estimated savings of $400,000 annually as being "hardly worthy of attainment in terms of the resultant hardship and unemployment affeeting long-time government employees." The employees involved in this reduetion amount to 64 in number, and every effort possible is being made to plaee these employees elsewhere within other government ageneies or in private industry. I do not believe that any great hardships will result to the employees involved by diseontinuing eoinage at San Franeiseo. Further, in conneetion with your Item No. 1, you indieate that the amount saved is small in relation to the national budget. That is true, but it is rather large in relation to the total expenditures of the Mint serviee. We in the Mint feel that the only way to balanee the budget is for eaeh Bureau to do what it ean toward reducing the overall expenditure. We do not believe that beeause the saving is relatively small compared to the total national debt that we should eontinue an uneeonomical and unbusinesslike operation.

Under your discussion enumerated as Item 2, you talk about the population trend on the west coast. In this connection I point out that coins are distributed through the 12 Federal Reserve banks and 24 branches, as well as through the Cashier's Office in the Treasury Department at Washington. Of the 37 outlets for coins only four fall in the San Francisco district, namely, the Federal Reserve banks and branches at Los Angeles, San Francisco, Portland and Seattle. These four banks demand less than 10 per cent of the total coin production of the United States. With such a small demand, it was determined many years ago to be uneconomical to put into operation at San Francisco modern large-scale equipment. If such equipment had been installed at San Francisco it could have produced enough coin in a few days to satisfy the needs of the west coast, and any other production from such equipment would, of necessity, have to be moved to the more heavily populated areas in the East. The shipping of coin is expensive and, therefore, it would have been very unbusinesslike to have increased production at San Francisco. At Denver, where modern equipment has been installed it is possible, for example, to produce one-cent pieces for $0.75 per thousand, whereas in San Francisco it costs $1.71 (figures based on actual cost in fiscal year 1954). One-cent pieces represent about 65 per cent of the total production of coins in the United States. To state it another way—Denver can produce one-cent pieces and deliver them to the San Francisco Mint at less cost than the San Francisco Mint can produce them. Although one-cent pieces are the bulk of production, the same cost relationship holds to the other denominations to a certain extent. For example, it costs $3.39 per thousand to produce five-cent pieces at San Francisco and only $1.64 to produce the same coins in Denver. For 10-cent, 25-cent and 50-cent pieces, respectively, the cost at San Francisco is $1.91, $4.10 and $6.91 per thousand, whereas in Denver the cost is $1.29, $2.81, and $4.73.

You can see from the above figures that it is more economical and businesslike to make coins in Denver and ship them to the west coast. Also, as stated above, the west coast, because of the small demand for coin, does not permit the installation of more efficient equipment in the region.

Under Item 3 of your letter you say that the action is looked upon with disfavor by all California coin collectors and coin clubs, and you state that you believe that members of the numismatic fraternities throughout the nation share your views. I think that you and the numismatic fraternities must agree that the Mint cannot operate an uneconomical institution merely for the sake of collectors. Had this been true, at least four other mints would be in operation in the United States—mints that have been closed in the past. The Mint's major problem is to produce coins for a medium of exchange to circulate the goods of the country. We do recognize that collectors are interested in our product, and for that reason, we produce proof coins at Philadelphia especially for collectors. Also, the Treasurer's Office distributes uncirculated coins because of the collectors' interest.

Also under Item 3 you state that the Mint Director's action is an affront to the West. The decision to discontinue coinage at San Francisco was based solely upon a manufacturing point of view, and I point out that the Mint is a manufacturing operation.

Under Item 4 you mention the construction of the Mint building at San Francisco in 1937, and say this is an admission of poor governmental planning. In the first place, I point out that the Mint was built in San Francisco mainly because of a silver storage problem in addition to the fact that operations in the old building were uneconomical. Savings on operations in the new building with more efficient equipment have more than paid for its existence. It would have been totally impossible to have stored the silver in the old building in the quantity that it is stored in the new. One thing I wish to point out in this connection is the change in monetary habits of the people in the last several years, which was not taken into consideration when San Francisco was constructed. It is this change in monetary habits that has changed the nature of the manufacture of coins, permitting the use of large-scale modern equipment. It is this change which, in effect, has caused the discontinuance of coinage at San Francisco.

Prior to the mid-thirties, not many coins were demanded. Furthermore, the emphasis was on silver coins. With the advent of cash-and-carry merchandising, state sales taxes and Federal excise taxes, the development of coin operated devices, such as vending machines, parking meters, etc., the demand for coins increased tremendously and the character of the demand changed to a point where the demand for one-cent pieces amounted to 65% to 70% of the total demand for coins. Out of this heavy demand and the change in character of demand came the need for large-scale equipment of a brass mill nature adapted primarily for the production of minor coins. The entire conception of coinage equipment changed because of these two factors. As pointed out above, the demand on the west coast did not justify the installation of this kind of equipment in the San Francisco Mint.

Under Item 5 you state that you believe that the solution might lie within spreading the work load more evenly among the three existing Mints or the resumption of gold coinage.

The resumption of gold coinage is a policy matter which I will not attempt to discuss in this letter. You indicate that you realize this by stating it would take a Congressional Act to commence gold coinage. As to spreading the work between the three existing Mints, it means that, in effect, we would, in reducing personnel, continue to make horizontal cuts. All this would do would be to increase cost in two ways: First, it would increase the proportion of overhead cost to be applied, and secondly, it would reduce coinage in our most efficient plant. In this connection, the San Francisco Mint had been reduced to a minimum. Any further reduction there merely would have increased cost. For several years San Francisco has been producing more coins than the west coast could absorb, and it was necessary to ship coins to the East at great expense. For your information there is attached a table which shows the reduction in personnel in the Mint service over the past several years.

By discontinuing the coinage operation at the San Francisco Mint, 64 positions are involved, 44 in coinage and 20 elsewhere. Every effort will be made to find work for the persons occupying these positions. You will note from the table mentioned above that the San Francisco Mint has fared well in the reduction of employees. For example, Philadelphia on June 30, 1945, had 2,608 employees. Today it has 266. San Francisco on the same dates had 424 and 148, respectively. You also will note that Denver since June 30, 1953, has gone from 270 to 197, while San Francisco went from 158 to 148. During the same period Philadelphia went from 317 to 266 employees. I believe these figures also dispel your thoughts in Item 3 relative to the reduction at San Francisco being an affront to the West.

The closing of the San Francisco Mint is not a new idea inasmuch as at Congressional hearings Mint officials have been questioned about the soundness of continuing coinage operations there. To have tried to reduce the personnel further in San Francisco without closing down coinage entirely would have increased cost in comparison to Denver and would have put the Mint in an untenable position as far as justifying continued operations there. The only businesslike decision that could be made on the basis of the facts was the one which we decided upon, namely, closing coinage at San Francisco.

We will continue to receive deposits of gold and silver and to operate the refinery at San Francisco. Out of the 148 employees now working there, 89 will be retained to carry out the above-mentioned functions.

I have written to you in detail because I believe that after you have reviewed the facts involved in our decision to discontinue coinage at San Francisco, you will agree that it was the only businesslike action to take. If there are any additional questions that you desire to ask, I will be glad to answer them upon request.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) **Leland Howard**
Acting Director of the Mint

THE UNITED STATES MINT at San Francisco, Duboce Ave. at Buchanan and Market Sts.